

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 190641
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 INSE-00 IO-14 PA-02 ICAE-00
SSO-00 PM-05 /041 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:LARTHUR:CML
APPROVED BY HA - FSIEVERTS
ARA/CAR - GDESANTILLANA (DRAFTO
DOD/OSD/ISA/IA - WSMITH (DRAFT)
INS/CO - HEBAUGH (DRAFT)
-----123105 281405Z /44

O 281336Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE 0847
CNO IMMEDIATE
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE
COMNAVBASEARIB ROOSEVELT ROADS PR IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 190641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIANS AT GTMO

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE SHOULD BE USED ONLY ON AN IF
ASKED BASIS:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING A GROUP OF
HAITIANS WHO WERE RETURNED TO HAITI ABOARD U.S. MILI-
TARY AIRCRAFT?

A. A GROUP OF 44 HAITIANS WHOSE SAILBOAT WAS IN DANGER
OF SINKING WERE RESCUED BY A U.S. NAVY VESSEL AND
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BROUGHT TO THE U.S. NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA
ON JULY 9. THEY WERE LATER JOINED BY A SECOND GROUP OF
58 HAITIANS WHO ENTERED THE U.S. NAVAL BASE ON THEIR
OWN IN AN UNSEAWORTHY BOAT ON JULY 21. AFTER EXTENSIVE
SCREENING BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND INS OFFICERS AND
AN OFFICIAL OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THEIR REASONS FOR LEAVING HAITI

WERE TO BETTER THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION. SINCE NONE
WERE DETERMINED TO BE BONA FIDE POLITICAL REFUGEES,
THEY WERE RETURNED TO PORT AU PRINCE JULY 27 ABOARD

U.S. NAVY AIRCRAFT STATIONED AT GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

.....STATE DEPARTMENT AND AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED THEM ON THEIR RETURN TO HAITI AND
ALSO OBSERVED THEIR ARRIVAL AND RECEPTION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE HAITIAN RED CROSS AND HAITIAN GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES. THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI EXPEDITED RE-ENTRY PROCEDURES FOR THEM AND ASSURED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WOULD SUFFER NO ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OR REPRISALS STEMMING FROM THEIR ILLEGAL DEPARTURE FROM HAITI. CHRISTOPHER

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TAGS: SREF, HA, US, CU
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